

1912, has to devote as many pages to the new Insurance

Bill as to the Campaign These pages are highly critical

The Webbs in effect had to accept^a most difficult kind of

defeat Some of the things they wanted done were being

done, in what they thought a fatally wrong way a way

that blocked future advance on the right line Yet at the

same time the public mind had been completely deflected

from attention to their alternative proposals They saw

this The> knew that they were beaten

In the summer of 1912, accordingly, Mrs Webb tells the readers of *The Crusade* that

"The general acceptance of our policy puts us in a difficulty We have almost, it seems, reached 'saturation point*' as regards public opinion We cannot go on forever expounding the Minority Report to audiences already converted to it "

In 1912, a second great National Conference was held, and most successfully, but, long before that year was out, the decision had been taken, and was being put into effect While volunteers were to continue to meet the demand for lectures, and the Press Committee was to go on, and the work of replying to enquirers, while "We shall not let slip any opportunity of doing useful work," and "shall maintain a watchful eye in order to note (and promptly take means to circumvent and oppose) any reactionary proposal," no further subscriptions are to be asked for The office was to be kept on at half strength, but, as Mrs Webb puts it,

"My husband and I feel that we must ourselves now take up new ground, and turn our main energies in

other directions "

The Crusade appeared for the last time
in that form
in March 1913, in April 1913, the editor
transferred
himself to *The New Statesman*, a sixpenny
weekly, which
then started a useful career that was to last
for the next
sixteen years, until in 1930, it absorbed the
Liberal *Nation*